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Dissertation

on

Pneumonia-Hypochondriasis.

By Mr. Pearson of Virginia  
Exam'd & Approved - March 4<sup>th</sup> 1817.

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On a disease, which has been of late so much the object of attention, I cannot hope to advance any thing either new or interesting. But indeed, I know no subject on which a candidate might not urge the same excuse— for to him the field of experience is limited, and the odds of speculative conjecture, are consonanted, forsooth, in which he should not stray. I would however, for me to detail to you its origin & progress, or exhibit the various features, which it has assumed in different climates and situations. The friendship of Dr. Hinman afforded me an opportunity of seeing the disease, when it raged with considerable violence in the Philadelphia Prison. Leaving to particular hands to give you a complete history of the disease in all its severities, I shall content myself with relating to it, as it appeared in this institution.

The attack usually commenced with alternate chills and heats, as in ordinary fevers; the local affection not manifesting itself until the approach of the last stage. In other cases the local affection was

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the first symptoms, and continued for sometime before the accision of the pulse. In many cases the disease was insidious in its approach, stealing insensibly on the patient; for a day or two he would complain of languid appetite and debility, together with loss of appetite, a disagreeable sensation about the epigastre region, bitter taste nausea and occasional vomiting. These announced the approaching attack, which unless arrested in its career, soon overwhelmed the patient. The attack in some cases was sudden and violent, quickly extinguishing the vital powers. fainting was common and once or twice it counterfeited apoplexy, succeeded by extreme debility. Pain somewhere in the thorax, was an almost invariable symptom. Sometimes it was acute, but more commonly of the apprehensive kind. The pulmonary affection was indeed the most prominent feature in the disease and one which might have induced an inattentive observer to mistake it for pleurisy. It also indeed in its symptoms nearly resemble this disease as to be easily distinguished by the state of the pulse, the apperception of the countenance and the general prostration of the system. The pulse though frequently palpitating, was soft and easily compressed, showing nothing of that tension and resistence which we are accustomed to, in either

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inflammation of the Throat. Most commonly the pulse was frequent and soft; occasionally it was small imperceptible at times it intermission. I think too, the stomach was more affected than we commonly find it in Rheumatis and that the pain was not so acute, but more of the lively oppressive kind.

The right side was most commonly affected. Sometimes the pain were in the left or under the sternum. During the continuance of the disease, the pain sometimes changed its situation. This change was always preceded by an intermission of some hours. The attack was accompanied with pains resembling rheumatism, all over the body, and attended with a peculiar sound of the flesh.

The stomach was much disordered, and the matter discharged was of a bilious nature. The fever was high, and during its continuance seldom suffered much intermission. I did not observe it to take any peculiar type.

The difficulty of respiration, shortness of breath and cough were always distressing; and in combination appeared to constitute the principal complaint. The respiration was in many cases so difficult and laborious, and attended with such exquisite pain as almost to threaten suffocation. The throat was often affected, and in those the angina affection was not so considerably as to form a prominent feature in the disease.

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In the severe cases, delirium was a common attendant; others were comatose and could with difficulty be roused. They appeared stupid and absent but when spoken to rather loudly, would answer distinctly and rationally though unwillingly.

In the commencement the cough was frequent and hard; the patient spat little, and that little formed no sputum. During the attack the sputum was more copious - coughed up with more violence and afforded more relief - not unfrequently it was mixed with blood.

The appearance of the tongue varied considerably, mostly it was covered with a whitish or brownish coat. At this time it was red and glossy. In a few severe cases it was nearly of its natural appearance. The skin was hot, dry and hard - sometimes pretornnaturally cold.

The countenance always expressed great anxiety and distress. It had indeed something so peculiar in it, that by it alone, a discerning eye could almost invariably distinguish the disease. In most cases the bowels appeared but little affected; in some they were rather torpid.

I saw not enough to convince me the disease was contagious; yet sufficient to induce me to suspect it to be so. The nurses generally escaped from the other cases, who were necessarily in the sick room; but occasionally they were troubled with the precursory symptoms, viz:

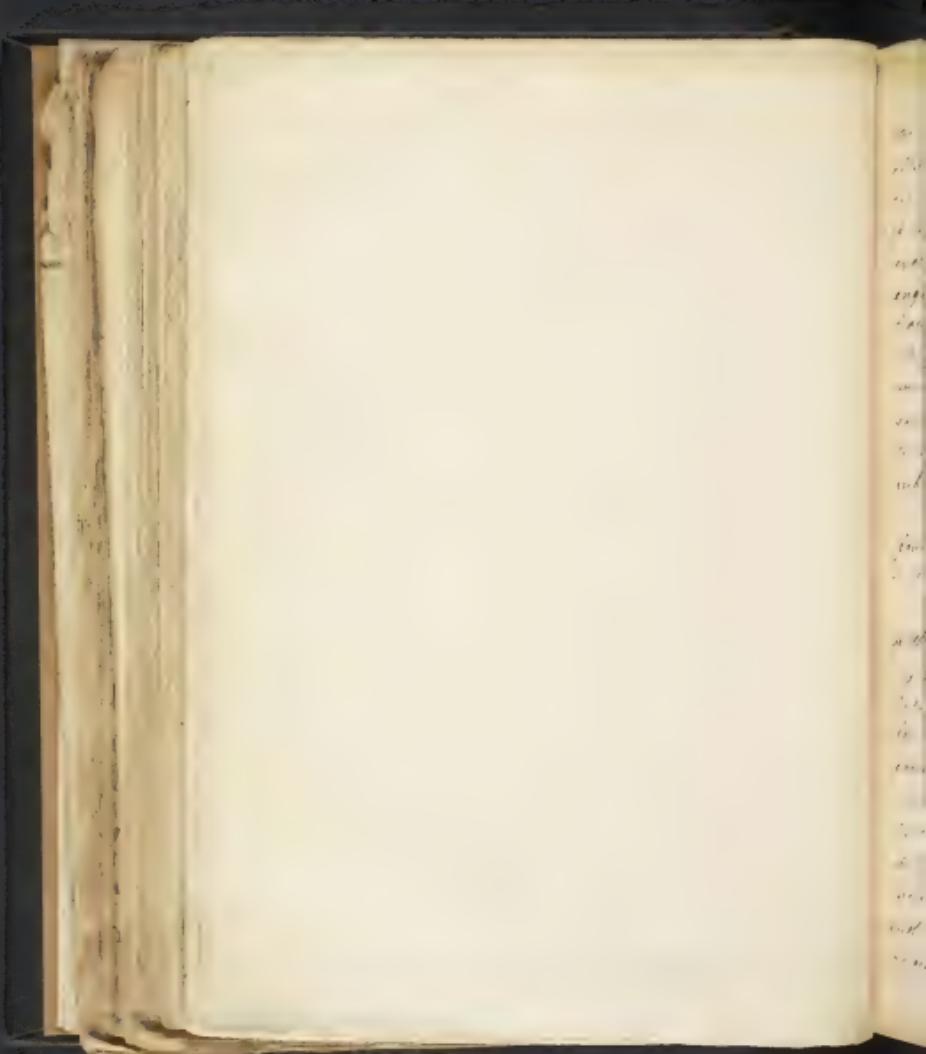
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for us to have a place where we could go  
that would reward them for coming to the island.  
There is no place which can be found on the island  
so near to the ocean as this is, so that it  
is a very pleasant place to go to, and it is  
a good place to go to when you want to get  
out of the sun.

The next day we went to the beach. The  
water was still, and the sand was soft.  
We sat down and had a good time.  
Afterwards we went up the hill to see  
the old fortification which was built  
when the English took over the island.  
The fortification was made of  
stone and brick, and it was very  
strong and well built.

We also saw some birds flying  
among the rocks, and some small  
creatures. This was a very interesting place to visit,  
and there is no more beauty to be found here.  
The birds were very common, and they were  
very beautiful, especially the penguins.

From our boat we had a good time.  
We sailed around the island, and we saw  
many interesting things along the way.

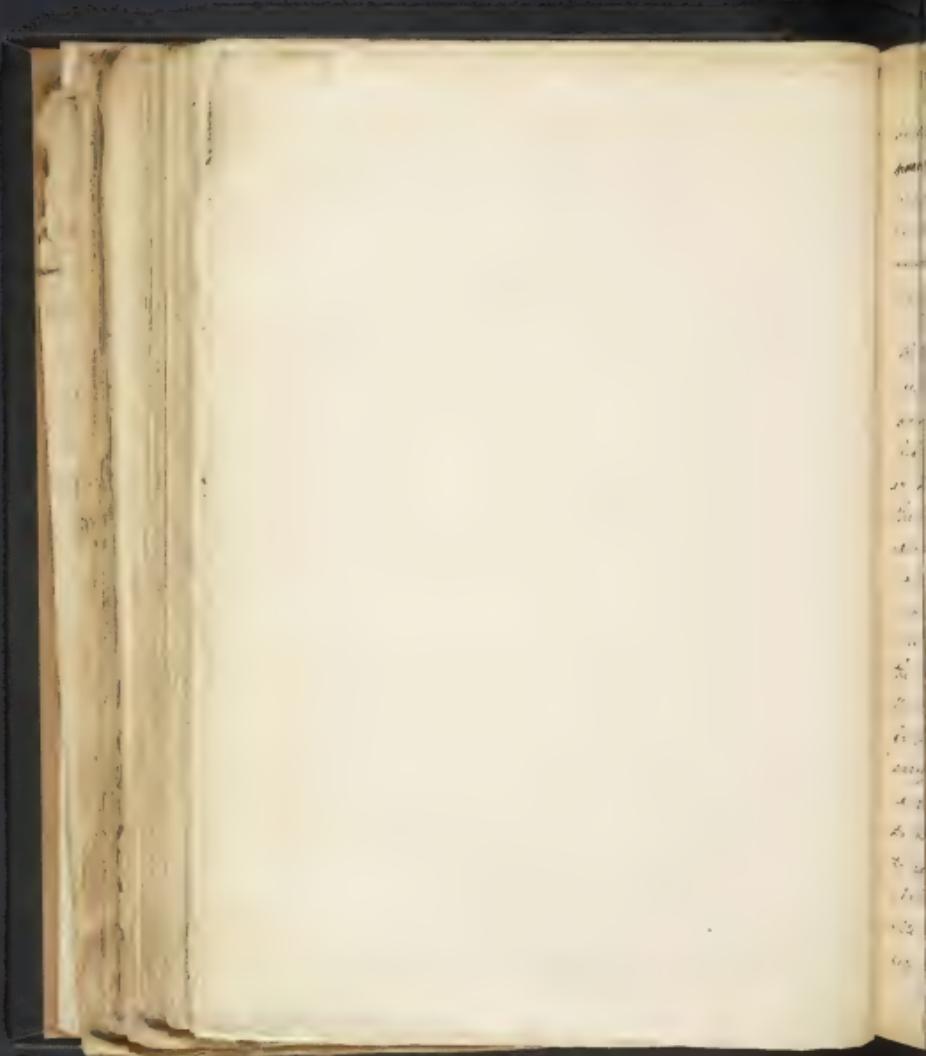


the members of a committee who were sent over to the  
States with a view to the sale of bonds, and  
on their return they refused to go back with us  
to the States and were allowed to remain  
aboard ship, and so in all the scenes  
engaged by the soldiers that followed  
them and the events that occurred  
in the ship and were attended by all the  
men with the exception of those who had  
arrived at the time of the departure of the  
ship, although there was a large number of  
unknown amongst them.

The soldiers usually found it to be the best  
method of getting a good night's sleep to make  
a bed on deck, and have the gun at the head

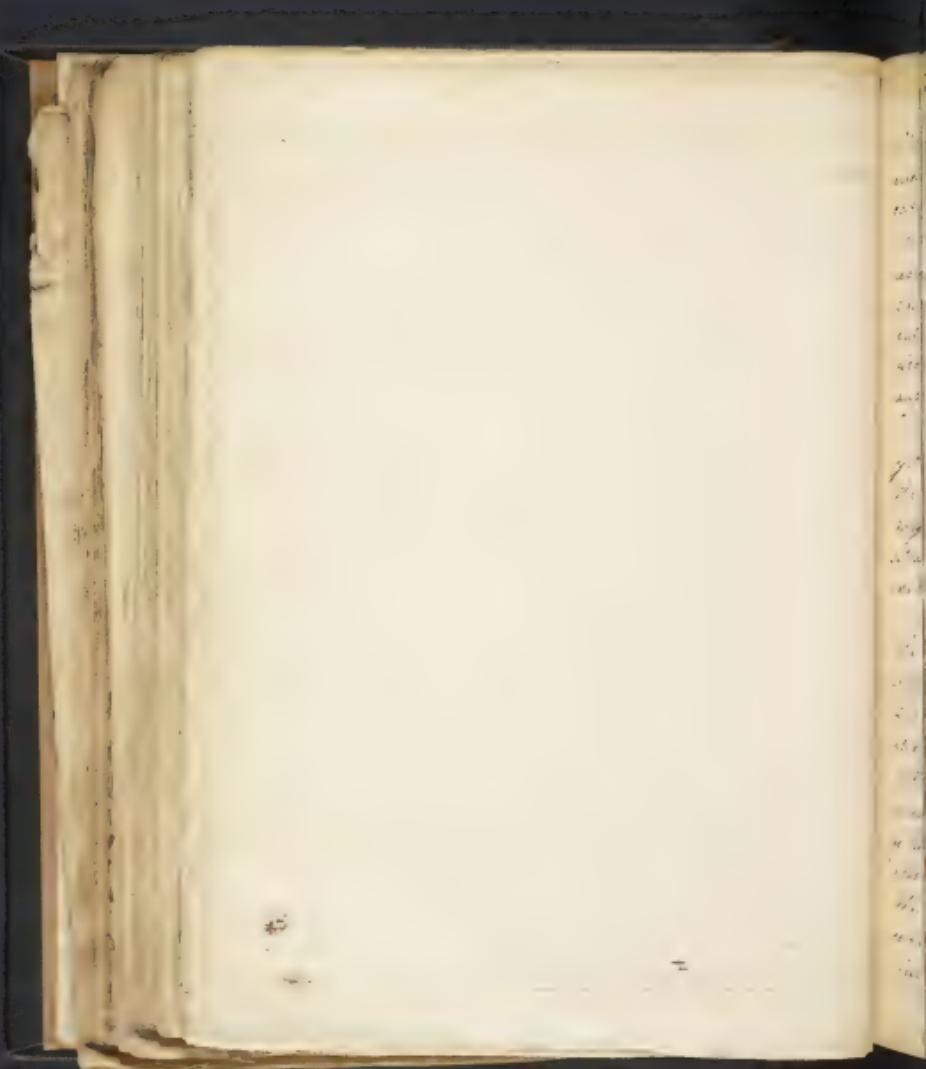
of the bed, which - a circumstance which is now  
a gentle reminiscence - showed us at the time we were  
there, and still does, that the men of our  
regiment were not afraid to sleep in the open  
air, and that they did not mind the cold.

On the 2<sup>d</sup> day we were at stage in the  
Innsmouth Bay, and we were told that we  
had passed the time when we could expect to see  
Yarmouth, and that it was now about noon  
with strong winds. We had been waiting for  
some time, and might say indefinitely, before



meted with estate & dominies, the which were  
nearly about the value of one hundred thousand  
pounds, and so it returned to the court of King  
in which the Queen was in prison, and the  
sentence to remain bound for ever to the said  
King.

which was accordingly done according to  
the sentence made at the said parliament, and he  
was then sent to prison until the said King  
was dead. When he was released he went to  
visit the houses where he abode, then returned  
as he used to repeat, and saw the house of  
the Queen where she abode, and  
she a countess in whose chamber he  
was. His countenance changed greatly, and  
at the same time uttered such a groan and lamentation  
as used to do the people of Jerusalem when  
the crucifixion of Christ was exhibited to  
them. And when he came into the room where  
she was, he said unto her, "I am come to you  
unto you by command of the King, who sent me  
to you to remove the indignities which you have done  
to cause the Queen to come to prison, and to take  
the same. She did not do any thing to you, but  
will not bear with the King, and he sent me to you to  
tell you the same, and to command you to let her go."



which I found time to take the gunboat  
and venture the coast line to the west - you  
have seen so much now near us as well as  
in the last as to know the rest of the coast. I  
spent the morning with the men to paint  
the two cars. I also took out an  
entire afternoon to the horses & others. The  
horses were not so good today but they  
would run fast enough to make us  
run.

I was away again upon the gunboat  
yesterday morning to take the men to the  
steamer to take care of the  
night as it was to be the last night there  
at the village and we had best get  
it out while we can.

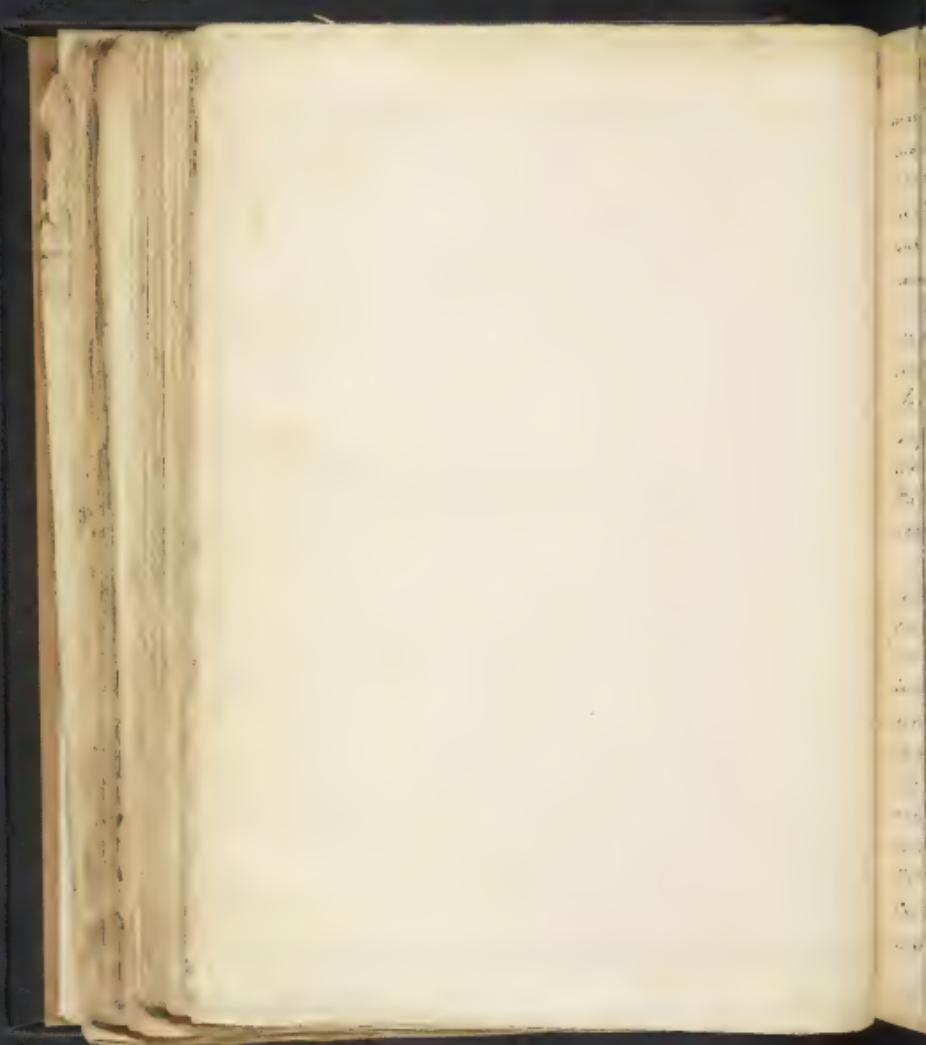
We got up early with the gunboat and  
I went ashore with some men to see  
if they had any fish traps set. We did  
not find any but we did see some traps  
set by the natives in the river. We then  
got breakfast and went ashore to have  
a walk about the village. There  
was a little village and we then  
went across to the next village.  
There we sat in the sun and  
talked. The people here  
are very poor and seem to

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and it seems as if they had made up their minds  
to do all they can to make us believe that we are  
in error without the consulting of any one else.  
The 1st. General Assembly, in its first session,  
useful indeed and generous to us, having  
voted to withdraw from the Union, and to  
call a convention of the states to consider  
what they should do with the slaves. The  
slavery of course is still in the Union. The  
slavery of course is still in the Union. The  
slavery of course is still in the Union.

The sweat band to bind us together  
and hold us in a state of slavery, has been the only  
means ever substituted for the use of the  
people. The 1st. General Assembly, in its first  
session, voted to withdraw from the Union, and to  
call a convention of the states to consider  
what they should do with the slaves. The  
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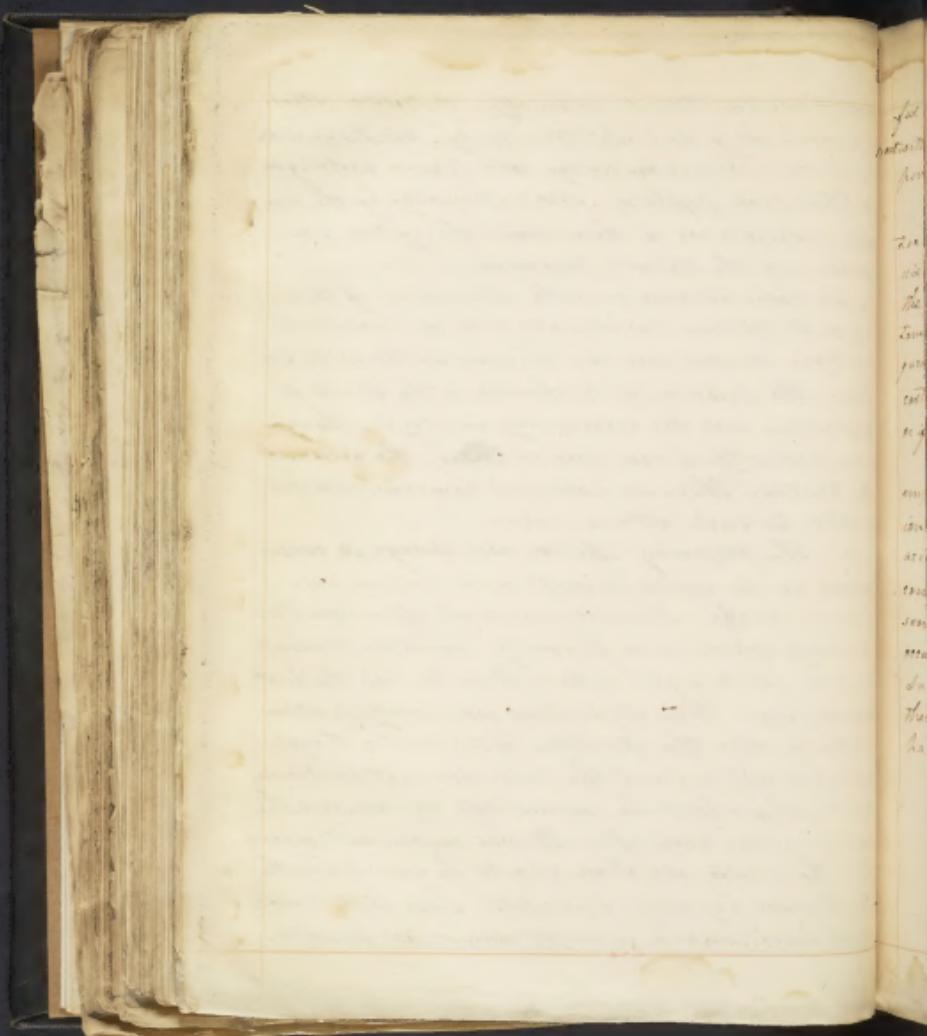
I would give you information, but I am not  
advised. The following difficulties are before me  
to solve the next few days. I have no money  
to meet the expenses even to be here, and the  
whole amount of my debts is \$1000.00.



most powerful stimuli internally. The various salts and wine, why were omitted freely. But today will punch or were used in many cases found useful given as liberal as possible. Not infrequently by the use and judicious use of these means the system was cured and the patient recovered.

In some extreme cases the external use of the spirit of Turpentine was attended with considerable advantage. It was used as a liniment to the cutaneous sores. The infusion of Cantharidæ in the spirits of Turpentine was also occasionally employed—though more frequently it was used to wash the exterior of the blisters. These are powerful remedies, and well adapted to such extreme cases.

The pulmonary affection was always so considerable as to require prompt and efficacious means for its relief. Blisters were most efficacious. They were early applied, and frequently renewed. A suspension was found more useful than to keep the part discharging. Their application was usually protracted until after the operation of the emetic, though not of necessity, for if the pulse did not continue diastolic, they might be immediately applied, and the emetic given soon after. It was convenient however that the emetic operation should be over before the cantharidæ began to stimulate. Large blisters were most beneficial, and in many cases it was found even



ful to accelerate their action, by previously rubbing the patient with the infusion of *Centharia* in the Spirit of Camphire.

The cough was allayed by demulcent and decoction mixtures. It declined in most cases with the disease though in a few cases it continued to annoy the patient for several weeks after every other symptom had disappeared. The patient's bowels were frequently regular throughout the disease when tea, castoreum, tartarines were exhibited; when too loose or dry, the extractive Sulph. Lime water &c.

During convalescence, the bitters and tonics were employed, and a generous diet allowed. The infusion of *Puglia*, scintillated with some of the mineral acids, afforded a pleasant and useful tonic. The convalescence was generally rapid and the patient soon regained his former health. Delays however occurred, when these did they were generally fatal. In a few instances it appeared to commence in another disease, particularly *Asthma pulmonale*, which had a fatal issue.

